

Appl. No. 09/896,426
Amdt. dated 02/07/2005
Reply to Office action of 10/05/2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is requested of all rejections based on objections to the drawings:

FIG. 1 has been designated as 'prior art'. FIG. 1 has not, however, been amended to represent three separate colors because the Bayer pattern that it depicts is a two dimensional array of identical unit cells. The detailed makeup of these unit cells is discussed in the specification but is not shown in FIG. 1 since it is not relevant to the invention. The alternating hatched and clear squares in FIG. 1 are intended only to make the drawing easier to perceive.

Reconsideration is requested of all rejections based on objections to the specification:

The phrase "focusing an image on the image sensor" has been deleted in claims 1 and 9.

Regarding claim 17, we thank Examiner for spotting our inadvertent omission of antecedent material from the specification. This has been corrected by adding a paragraph that is a restatement of claims 17-19 in non-claim form

Reconsideration is requested of all rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 112:

As discussed immediately above, Claims 18 and 19 are now reflected in the

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specification so that the necessary guidance to enable one to reproduce the invention is now present.

Reconsideration is requested of all rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 102:

Regarding claims 2 and 10, as now amended, there is no overlap between the list of storage technologies enumerated there and the list enumerated by Rambaldi et al. in col. 5 lines 47 and 48. We note that all the examples of storage technologies cited by Rambaldi et al. are of the read-write or read-mostly type which can be reused (albeit following a time consuming full chip erasure step) whereas both storage technologies that are listed in our claims 2 and 10 are of the write-once type in which a bit, once written, cannot be changed.

Regarding claim 9, in Rambaldi's FIG. 5 there is no suggestion of a unit cell (as in our FIG. 1), as opposed to an array of red, green and blue cells, Rambaldi making no mention of a Bayer pattern. This difference between our claim 9 and Rambaldi is thus that, in claim 9, bad pixels correspond to bad unit cells whereas, in Rambaldi, they correspond to bad color cells.

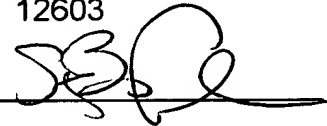
Regarding claim 17, now that a suitable paragraph has been added to our specification to reflect the substance of claim 17, examiner's equating 'disconnecting' with 'storage in memory' is no longer valid, it now being clear that terms such as 'connecting' and 'disconnecting' refer to actual physical connections and not to memory entries.

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In view of the above listed arguments and amendments, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

FIG. 1 has now been marked as 'Prior art', as requested by Examiner. No additional changes have been made to FIG. 1 for the reasons given below as part of REMARKS/ARGUMENTS.